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County Borough of Walsall

1946



1946

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1946



JAMES A. M. CLARK,

M.D. Ch.B., D.P.H.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

*To THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY
BOROUGH OF WALSALL.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Borough during the year 1946. The Report, which is issued in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, is again abbreviated.

Vital Statistics

The Birth Rate shows an increase, being 22.51 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 19.74 for 1945, the figures for England and Wales being 19.1 and 16.1 respectively, and 22.2 for the great towns. This is the highest birth rate in the borough since 1924. The Illegitimate Birth Rate is rather less than in the previous year, there being 104 illegitimate births as compared with 119. Infant Mortality shows a substantial reduction, being 43.48 per 1,000 births compared with 57.28 in the previous year. This is the lowest infantile mortality rate ever recorded in the borough. The illegitimate infant mortality rate also shows a decrease, being 76.92 per 1,000 births as against 92.14 in 1945. The infant mortality rate for the country as a whole was 43 per 1,000 births and 46 for the great towns.

The general Death Rate also shows a reduction, being 10.9 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 11.99. The corresponding rate for the country as a whole was 11.5 and for the great towns 12.7.

The Maternal Mortality Rate was 0.41 per 1,000 (live and still) births, one woman having died as the result of childbirth.

Health of the Borough

The year 1946 was a cheerless one. There was an absence of sunshine, the summer season being characterised by dull grey and many wet days. In the latter part of the year there was a shortage of fuel, dwelling-houses were cold and damp and the outlook for the average citizen was bleak. The long-continued shortage of fats in our diet appears to be making itself felt, for there was much illness of a minor nature, "influenzal" colds and such like from which recovery was unduly prolonged.

On the other hand, there was a remarkable freedom from infectious disease. There were 18 cases of Diphtheria, the lowest number recorded in any year since the introduction of compulsory notification in 1890. There were 132 cases of Scarlet Fever, 147 of Measles, and 384 of Whooping Cough.

Tuberculosis

There has been a decline in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified, viz. 114 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis as against 135, and 22 cases of other forms of the disease as against 26. There has also been a decrease in the death rate—67 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 10 from other forms, as compared with 74 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 6 from other forms in the previous year, death rates of 0.62 from the pulmonary form and 0.1 from the non-pulmonary form, compared with 0.72 and 0.06.

Respiratory Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) again show a decline, the death rate being 1.3 per 1,000 of the population compared with 1.65 in the previous year.

Cancer

There were 175 deaths from all forms of malignant disease as compared with 184, giving a death rate of 1.63 as against 1.79.

The Borough Council is a constituent member of the West Midlands Cancer Scheme.

Venereal Diseases

The number of persons presenting themselves for examination at the Special Clinic again shows an increase, 546 new cases attending. 248

persons were found to be suffering from Venereal Disease (Syphilis 81, Gonorrhoea 163) and 298 were found to be not suffering from the disease. In the previous year the corresponding figures were 168 suffering from venereal disease and 272 not suffering from the disease.

Hospitals

The shortage of nursing staff in our hospitals continues. Owing to the lack of trained and other staff it was found necessary to close half the Maternity Unit at the Manor Hospital in May. The Tuberculosis Block at Goscote Isolation Hospital was closed at the end of June. Pelsall Sanatorium was closed for the month of August in order that the staff might have their annual holiday, there being inadequate staff to allow of them taking their holiday in rotation. The domestic staff situation was somewhat relieved by the arrival at the end of December of "displaced persons" from Europe, two being sent to Goscote Isolation Hospital and two to Pelsall Sanatorium.

Housing

There is little or no alteration in the housing situation, less than 400 new houses (300 prefabricated and 81 permanent)—apart from adaptations—being provided up to the end of 1946. Owing to the shortage of materials and to other causes, the outlook for many of our citizens at present living under very unsatisfactory conditions is far from bright.

Ambulance Service

The Headquarters of the Ambulance Service are at the Ambulance Station, Hatherton Road, and a twenty-four hour service is maintained. There has been a marked increase in the work of the ambulance service, there being a total of 2,829 calls, in addition to midwives' calls. A total of 20,365 miles was covered by the ambulance service during the year.

Staff

A number of changes have taken place in the staff during the year : Mrs. Saunders, who had been Supervisor of Midwives and Superintendent Health Visitor since 1920, retired ; Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Wright, both of whom had given many years' service to the Council, also retired.

Mrs. Kendall, S.R.N., S.C.M., was appointed as Supervisor of Midwives and took up duties in June. Miss Johnson was appointed as Superintendent Health Visitor and took up her appointment in May.

Changes have also taken place in the medical staff. Dr. I. M. Brown, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.M.S.A., D.R.C.O.G., was appointed as Medical Officer in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare, filling a post which had been vacant for some time. She took up her duties in October.

Dr. Weigert, whose professional skill had been an asset to the School Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Services for a period of over two years, resigned at the end of November. He was succeeded by Dr. J. C. Birchall, who joined the staff at the beginning of December.

During the early part of 1946 we experienced rather an anxious period owing to the serious shortage of midwives, there being 5 vacancies for district midwives, and, owing to a similar lack of staff, the number of maternity beds available at the Manor Hospital was reduced by half. At the same time we were faced with a rising birth rate and consequently the strain thrown upon the midwives remaining on the staff was very severe and great credit is due to them for the way in which they faced their heavy task. Fortunately, we were able during the latter half of the year to obtain additional district midwives, and at the end of the year we had 12 district midwives, leaving only one vacancy.

The staff of Health Visitors is still very depleted and we have been unable to make any fresh appointments.

My grateful thanks are due to the members of my staff who have given me such loyal and devoted service during the year.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee I am also very grateful for their continued help and encouragement.

I am, Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JAMES A. M. CLARK, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,780
Population	..	..	(At Census 1931)	..	..	..	103,059
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,311
Number of Families	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,953
Population 1946 (estimated)	..	..	..	..	..	..	107,270
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£562,500
Sum represented by a penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,215
Population per Acre	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.2

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

Number of Births Registered	..	..	..	..	..	2,415
(Legitimate : M., 1,211 F., 1,100 Total 2,311)						
(Illegitimate : M., 62 F., 42 Total 104)						
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	22.51
Number of Deaths (M. 627, F. 542)	..	..	..	..	..	1,169
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	10.90
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth :						
From Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
From other Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	..	..	1
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (live and still) Births	..	..	..	..	..	0.41
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	..	105
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	..	..	..	..	..	43.48
Infant Mortality (legitimate infants) per 1,000 births	..	..	..	..	..	41.97
Do. (illegitimate infants) do.	..	..	..	..	..	76.92
Death Rate per 1,000 Population, from—						
Respiratory Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	0.62
All forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	0.72
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	..	..	..	..	..	1.30
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	1.63
Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases (Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup)	..	..	..	..	..	0.05

Death Rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis of Children under 2 years of age, per 1,000 births	..	..	..	2.48
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	..	..	..	6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	4

CORONER'S INQUESTS

141 inquests were held in the Borough during the year (82 males and 59 females).

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ordered by Coroner 96

SUMMARY OF INQUESTS					M.	F.
Death by Murder	..	..	..	..	—	—
„ Suicide	..	..	..	..	3	6
„ Manslaughter and Infanticide			..		—	—
„ Self-induced Abortion		..	..		—	—
„ Neglect	..	..	..	..	1	2
„ Want of Attention at Birth	..	..			—	—
Accident or Misadventure	..	..	..		28	30
Death from Natural Causes	..	..	..		49	20
Stillborn	..	..	..	..	—	1
Open Verdicts	..	..	..	..	—	—
Inquests adjourned	..	.	..	..	1	—
					82	59
Inquests on children suffocated whilst in bed (accidental)	..	..	..	..	—	—
Inquests on bodies of newly born children	..				—	—

Vital Statistics

The Birth Rate is 22.51 as compared with 19.1 in England and Wales as a whole, and 22.2 for the large towns.

The Death Rate shows a decrease, being 10.9 as compared with 11.5 for the country as a whole and 12.7 for the large towns.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 43.48, as compared with 57 in the previous year. The rate for the country as a whole is 43, and for the large towns 46.

There was 1 Maternal Death during the year.

The Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis shows a decrease, 0.62 as against 0.72 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate from other Respiratory Diseases also shows a decrease, being 1.3 per 1,000 as against 1.65 in the previous year.

Pathological Work

6,622 specimens have been examined on behalf of the Borough Council in the pathological laboratory, 5,525 in respect of Manor Hospital and 1,097 in respect of other public health services.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH, 1946

As furnished by the Registrar-General

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
ALL CAUSES	.. .. .	M. F.	627 542	71 34	7 9	5 12	63 64	174 102	307 321
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.. .. .	M. F.	1 1	— 1	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —
3. Scarlet Fever	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
4. Whooping Cough	.. .. .	M. F.	2 2	— 2	— 2	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Diphtheria	.. .. .	M. F.	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	.. .. .	M. F.	38 29	— —	— —	— 1	16 24	19 3	3 1
7. Other Forms of . tuberculosis	.. .. .	M. F.	6 4	— —	2 2	1 1	1 —	— —	— —
8. Syphilitic Diseases	.. .. .	M. F.	5 2	— 1	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	3 —
9. Influenza	.. .. .	M. F.	17 8	3 1	— —	— —	4 1	4 4	6 2
10. Measles	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis, etc.	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
12. Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	.. .. .	M. F.	1 3	— —	— 2	— —	1 —	— 1	— —
13. Cancer, Buc. Cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	.. .. .	M. F.	9 15	— —	— —	— —	1 2	— 7	8 6
14. Cancer, Stomach and Duodenum	.. .. .	M. F.	20 13	— —	— —	— —	1 —	7 5	12 8
15. Cancer of Breast	.. .. .	M. F.	— 12	— —	— —	— —	— 2	— 8	— 2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria. 18 cases of Diphtheria were notified compared with 34 in 1945. The number of cases notified during the year under review is the lowest number ever recorded. There was one fatal case, against four in the previous year. The fatal case had not been immunised. 2,061 children (957 under the age of five years, and 1,104 between the ages of five and fifteen), were immunised against the disease. 598 children were given a reinforcing injection.

Scarlet Fever. 132 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year as compared with 160 in the previous year. The disease was of a mild character and there were no deaths.

Measles was less prevalent, 147 being notified as compared with 1,718 in the previous year. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough. 384 cases of Whooping Cough were notified as compared with 310. There were four fatal cases.

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia. 227 cases were notified as compared with 152. There were 67 deaths from this cause during the year, a decrease of 15 on the previous year. Influenza accounted for 25 deaths as compared with 12 in the previous year.

Scabies. There has been a considerable reduction in the number of children and adults receiving treatment at the Scabies Clinic, Hatherton Road, 558 children and 472 adults receiving treatment during the year compared with 1,185 and 687 respectively.

Isolation Hospital. 143 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 18 cases of Diphtheria, 5 Diphtheria Carriers, 60 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Enteric Fever, 5 of Erysipelas, and 54 of other diseases.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS

Table showing cases admitted, deaths, case fatality rate, duration of stay, and percentage of cases isolated

Diseases	No. of cases notified	No. of cases admitted	Deaths	Mortality rate per 1,000 cases admitted	Total No. of patient days in 1946	Average duration of stay (weeks) of patients discharged or died	Percentage of notified cases isolated
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	18	18	1	55.5	664	5.4	100.0%
Contacts	—	5	—	—	158	4.5	—
Scarlet Fever	132	60	—	—	1827	4.2	45.5%
Measles (with complications)	147	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	52	5	1	200.0	63	1.8	9.6%
Enteric Fever	1	1	—	—	45	6.4	100.0%
Other Diseases	—	54	4	74.1	1105	2.7	—
Total	—	143	6	42.0	3862	3.7	—

Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neoratorum..	..	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	114	—	—	—	1	—	3	29	32	17	23	6	11	9	20	16	4	12	5	11	11	15	67	
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	..	22	—	2	—	—	5	4	1	1	4	—	2	1	6	4	—	2	1	2	1	3	10	
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	227	17	8	9	8	4	12	8	28	19	32	23	13	17	75	10	11	10	13	44	14	20	85	
Malaria	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	
Polio-Encephalitis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	..	1,117	80	87	92	110	81	241	66	85	62	104	41	88	63	254	89	51	77	60	239	87	109	168

*These deaths do not necessarily refer to the cases notified.

MANOR HOSPITAL

The following report on the work of the Manor Hospital has been supplied by Dr. Weston, Medical Superintendent.

“ There has been a small decrease in the number of admissions—4,944 as compared with 5,096 in the previous year, explained by the fact that a fewer number of service cases have been admitted ; the civilian admissions have been larger than last year.

“ The number of surgical operations performed being 2,833, the work of the hospital becomes more acute each year, less long-term cases being admitted.

“ The consulting staff has been strengthened with the appointment of Dr. Everley Jones as Consulting Paediatrician, who attends for an out-patient clinic weekly.

“ We extend a welcome to Dr. Jones and also to Dr. Booth who was appointed Consultant Radiologist in succession to Dr. Dyas. Dr. Dyas, who was appointed Honorary Consultant Radiologist, continues to give his services to the hospital in the capacity of Chairman of the newly formed Medical Committee. Thanks and appreciation are also due to our Consultants who are always at the service of the hospital.

“ The shortage of the nursing staff continues to be as acute as ever. We have, however, not had to close any further acute beds.

“ The work of the new X-ray Department, now almost complete, has been held up through shortages of labour and materials.

“ The number of out-patient attendances shows a big increase over the previous year.

“ An Infant Unit of 24 beds was opened during the year and has proved most satisfactory.”

Statistics for the year ending 31st December, 1946

Total admissions	4,944
Total number of deaths during the year	292

Accommodation

Men	132
Women	137
Children	64
	<hr/>
	333
	<hr/>

Average number of beds occupied	209
Highest number of beds occupied (1.2.46)	286
Lowest number of beds occupied (16.6.46)	165
Average stay in hospital—1946 (days)	17
Ditto 1945 „	20
Surgical operations	2,833
Minor operations in Outpatient Theatre	1,144
Operations in Main Theatre	1,689
Pathological specimens examined at Manor Hospital during the year	6,150

Maternity Department

Births	753
Stillbirths	21
Number died under ten days	20
Medical attention sought	176
Cases delivered by doctors	26
Born before admission	8
Forcep deliveries	35
Caesarean Sections	19
Maternal Deaths	1
Ante-natal attendances	5,888
Flying Squad calls	5

Massage and Electrical Department

Treatments given :

Massage	2,095
Electrical.. .. .	1,281
Radiant Heat	2,380
Ultra-violet Light	914
Exercises.. .. .	1,678

X-Ray Department

Number of films taken (Outpatient and Inpatient)	6,827
Number of Screen Examinations	684
Number of X-ray treatments	236

Out-Patient Department

Consultations referred by outside doctors	3,653
Dressings	21,998
New Patients in Casualty Department	2,998
Dental attendances	567
Ear, Nose and Throat attendances	1,971
Gynaecological attendances	972
Medical attendances	1,158
New Fractures	360
Attendances at Fracture Clinic	501
Massage and Electrical Attendances	4,188
X-ray attendances	4,134
Surgical Clinic attendances	2,148
Paediatric attendances (started December 1946)	5
Total Service Cases during year	57
Total Out-patient attendances.. .. .	50,392

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The demand for maternity accommodation at the Bloxwich Maternity Home, and at the Manor Hospital Maternity Unit, is as great as ever. Unfortunately, owing to the shortage of trained nursing staff, it was found necessary not only to close half of the Maternity Block at the Manor Hospital but also to reduce considerably the stay of mothers in the hospital. This reduction in the duration of stay of mothers after their confinement is one which we consider neither desirable nor good practice, but it was a course which could not be avoided.

During the first six months of the year the district midwifery position was also a most unhappy one, there being no fewer than five vacancies for district midwives at one and the same time. Fortunately, these vacancies were filled before the end of the year when we had a staff of 12 district midwives, leaving only one vacancy.

Arrangements were made for all our district midwives, who were not qualified to administer gas and air analgesia to receive training in this form of analgesia. Three gas and air outfits were purchased. These are kept at the Ambulance Station and are delivered at the home of the patient on the request of the midwife. No extra charge is made to patients for the administration of this analgesic.

The services of the "Flying Squad" were requisitioned in five cases of obstetric complications with satisfactory results in all cases.

Over 50 per cent. of all confinements occurring in Walsall took place in hospital or in one of the four nursing homes in the borough; 768 confinements took place at Manor Hospital, 322 in the Maternity Hospital, Bloxwich, compared with 717 and 287 respectively in the previous year. 268 confinements took place in private nursing homes and 983 on the district.

The Ante-natal Clinics have been well attended, 1,179 mothers having attended the extern clinics and 634 the Ante-natal Clinic at

Manor Hospital. Twenty-one ante-natal medical examinations were made by general practitioners of mothers referred to them from the clinics or by Municipal midwives.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres have also been well attended, 1,939 infants having been brought for medical examination and advice for the first time, the total attendances being 34,643 as against 33,650 in 1945.

Care of Illegitimate Children. The Walsall County Borough, as the Welfare Authority, is a constituent authority of the Staffordshire County Council Scheme for the care of illegitimate children and their mothers.

During the year ended 31st March, 1947, 53 cases of unmarried mothers and their babies have been helped.

Arrangements were made for 9 girls to go into Diocesan Homes and for one girl to go to a Roman Catholic Home. Help concerning Affiliation Proceedings was given in several cases and efforts made to trace putative fathers.

In co-operation with the Health Visitor, careful investigation has been made of the homes of prospective adopters and all the children placed for adoption are doing well.

The babies have been placed as follows :

With mother	31
Adoption	7
Private adoption (direct placing by mother) ..	3
In P.A.C. Institution	2
In Hospital	1
Died	5
Stillborn	1
Not yet born	1
Mother left before confinement	2
	<hr/>
	53
	<hr/>

Of the five infant deaths, 3 died from prematurity, 1 from Gastro-enteritis, and one from birth injury.

Premature Infants. Notification was received in respect of 110 infants whose birth weight was $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or under, 66 being born in hospital, 29 on the district and 15 in private nursing homes. There was 1 set of triplets (2 of the 3 infants being under $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) and 12 sets of twins. Three of the babies born in hospital died within 24 hours. 61 of the babies born in hospital, 27 of the babies born on the district, and 13 of those born in nursing homes survived at the end of four weeks.

Twenty-five babies were certified as having died from prematurity before they attained the age of twelve months ; 5 of these were of low birth weight.

The arrangements for the care of premature infants are as described in previous reports.

Home Help Scheme. Arrangements were well in hand for the establishment of a Home and Domestic Help Service, but the recruitment of suitable personnel for such a service has proved most difficult and it was not until February 1947 that the Scheme was actually in working order.

War-time Nurseries. The two Day Nurseries have been well patronised, the attendances are good and there is a waiting list. The health of the children in attendance at the Nurseries has been very satisfactory.

Table showing particulars of the cases dealt with at the Maternity Block, Manor Hospital, and at the Maternity Hospital at Bloxwich

DETAILS OF CASES	MANOR HOSPITAL	MATERNITY HOSPITAL
Number of Cases admitted during 1946	768	322
Average duration of stay	7.5 days	12.4 days
No. of Cases delivered by—		
(a) Midwives	667	204
(b) Doctors	86	116
No. of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	176	15
No. of Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified ..	5	Nil
No. of Cases of pemphigus neonatorum ..	Nil	Nil
No. of infants not entirely breast fed while in the Institution	210	51
No. of Cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum ..	2	Nil
No. of Maternal Deaths	1	Nil
No. of deaths—		
(a) Stillborn	28	8
(b) Within 10 days of birth and their causes, and the results of the post-mortem examination, if obtainable	† 19	* 1

† 12 died from Premature Birth, 2 from Inanition, 1 from Supra-renal haemorrhage, 1 from Hypo-glycaemia, 1 from Hydrocephalus, 1 from Spina bifida and 1 from Icterus gravis neonatorum.

* 1 died from Premature Birth.

**Table showing number of Midwives practising in the Borough
and cases attended during 1946**

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Totals
No. of Midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1946—			
(a) Employed by the Council ..	12	8	20
(b) In private practice	—	7	7
	12	15	27
No. of cases in the Borough attended by Midwives—			
(a) Employed by the Council—			
(i) As Midwives	978	871	1,849
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	183	202	385
(b) In private practice—			
(i) As Midwives	5	12	17
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	3	256	259
TOTALS {	983	883	1,866
	186	458	644
	1,169	1,341	2,510

Attendances Registered at the Infant Welfare Centres

CENTRE	Under 6 months		6—12 months		1—2 years		2—5 years		Total		New Cases
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	
Pool St. ..	2769	1038	1561	405	1057	454	1194	254	6581	2151	336
Field Rd. ..	3499	1407	1722	484	1575	638	1701	404	8497	2933	478
Littleton St.	2078	892	1144	400	774	351	1252	260	5248	1903	313
Countess St.	3830	1400	1931	441	1234	582	1314	304	8309	2727	501
Ida Rd. ..	2524	1002	1582	425	860	395	1042	254	6008	2076	311
Totals ..	14700	5739	7940	2155	5500	2420	6503	1476	34643	11790	1939

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1946

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One year of age

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total Deaths under One Year	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 & under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 9 months	9 & under 12 months	Bloxwich	Leamore	Harden	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Palfrey
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Common Infectious Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis..	6	—	—	2	1	3	2	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
Premature Birth	25	19	2	2	2	25	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	2	2	2	4	2	7
Congenital Malformations; Birth Injury; Infant Diseases ..	33	15	6	1	2	24	5	1	2	1	3	1	5	—	2	3	8	7	—	4
Tubercular Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ..	23	—	1	1	2	4	6	9	3	1	5	3	5	1	3	1	2	2	1	—
Other Causes	15	4	—	—	2	6	3	4	—	2	3	2	3	1	—	—	3	3	—	—
TOTALS	105	38	9	6	9	62	16	18	5	4	12	7	17	6	8	6	17	17	3	12

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate, 2,311; Illegitimate, 104. Nett Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants, 97; Illegitimate Infants, 8.

TUBERCULOSIS.

I am indebted to Dr. Welton, Chief Assistant Medical Officer, for the following report :

“ After a wartime rise in the incidence of tuberculosis, the total number of new cases diagnosed as tuberculous in 1946 has shown a decrease for the first time. There were 116 new cases diagnosed in 1946 compared with 150 in 1945 and 83 in 1939. In spite of the decrease in the number of new cases, the total number of new cases sent for investigation at the Dispensary, 636, remains remarkably constant, as also the number of sputum tests and x-ray examinations. The total number of patients suffering from tuberculosis on the dispensary register at the end of 1946 was 643.

“ The death rate for pulmonary tuberculosis for 1946 was 0.62 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.72 in 1945 and 0.77 in 1939. Corresponding figures for ‘ all forms ’ of the disease are 0.72 in 1946 and 0.82 in 1939. A total of 77 deaths were registered, 67 of these being due to pulmonary tuberculosis and the remaining 10 due to other forms of the disease.

“ Seventeen per cent. of all new patients attending the Dispensary were contacts of known cases. 798 specimens of sputum were examined at the Dispensary and 1,166 x-ray examinations were carried out at the Manor Hospital for Dispensary patients. Of these, 946 were film and 220 screen examinations.

“ The financial provisions for tuberculous patients under Memo 266/T as outlined in last year’s report have continued to operate and there have been 30 new cases who have received this form of assistance during the year. Up to the end of 1946 a total of 97 patients have benefited under this scheme since its inception.

“ The Tuberculosis After-Care Committee, which is now affiliated to the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, has for many years provided valuable assistance for tuberculous cases in the Borough. During the war years, this form of help, though hampered through rationing and shortage of supplies, has proved of even greater value than before and each year has seen an increase in the amount of work carried out. In addition to regular supplies of free milk and

Christmas gifts of money and blankets, many patients have been provided with clothing, footgear, bedding and extra financial aid. The Committee continues to receive its annual grant from the Council and its resources have been increased in recent years through the proceeds of the Christmas Seal sales which have been increasingly successful.

“ The shortage of nursing staff mentioned in last year's report has continued to make things very difficult both in the sanatoria and in the tuberculous homes of the Borough. Goscote Sanatorium, which re-opened in September 1945, only functioned for a few months and in June 1946 staff shortage compelled its closure again. Throughout August 1946 it was necessary also to close Pelsall Sanatorium in order to allow the overworked staff to take their annual leave. It is felt that the position in Walsall as regards sanatorium beds has not been any worse than in the country as a whole and in many cases the period of waiting for a bed has been considerably less than elsewhere. None the less, it is true to say that many patients who should have been in sanatoria have had to remain at home and do without the expert attention they have needed. They have spread their infection to others in the family and will continue to do so until the nursing shortage is eased and beds again become available.

“ The number of patients admitted to sanatoria who were suitable for pneumothorax (lung collapse) shows a further slight increase and this is very encouraging in view of the decrease in total cases. 27 patients (including one child) had pneumothorax induced during the year. The ‘ refill ’ clinic at the Manor Hospital continues to be well attended, patients coming at weekly or fortnightly intervals (Monday at 5.30 p.m.). Special appointments are made for cases presenting unusual features and progress is watched by periodic x-ray screen examinations. The need for further treatment along surgical lines has long been felt, but this has been held up owing to a number of factors in recent years. Thoracic surgery is becoming an increasingly efficient weapon in the battle against tuberculosis, but up to the end of the war there was not a sufficient number of Thoracic surgeons to meet the need. Such specialised treatment also brings with it the need for modern equipment and highly trained nursing staff and in this direction it may be that under the new Health Service, Walsall patients will derive further benefit.

“ The Sanatorium at Pelsall has served a more useful function than many have realised for a far longer period than most of us expected. But for the war it would have been superseded. Goscote Sanatorium is useful for a small number of advanced cases, but there is still a great need for accommodation for Walsall cases at a large sanatorium, where, not only will every form of up-to-date treatment be given, but the patients can, owing to their numbers, have the right sort of social life which is quite impossible to provide in smaller institutions. All this depends, of course, on staffing and, until more nurses are forthcoming, tuberculous patients in Walsall, as in other parts of the country, must remain inadequately treated and others must be exposed to otherwise preventable infection.

The following table shows the number of new cases notified and the number of deaths during 1946 :

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 ..	1	—	4	—	—	—	2	2
5—10 ..	1	2	3	2	—	—	1	1
10—15 ..	1	2	1	2	—	1	—	—
15—20 ..	5	7	1	1	2	2	—	1
20—25 ..	8	9	2	—	1	2	—	—
25—35 ..	17	15	—	1	6	13	2	—
35—45 ..	12	5	1	—	7	7	—	—
45—55 ..	8	2	1	3	12	1	1	—
55—65 ..	9	4	—	—	7	2	—	—
Above 65	3	3	—	—	3	1	—	—
Totals ..	65	49	13	9	38	29	6	4
	114		22		67		10	

62 patients were admitted to Pelsall Sanatorium during the year and 26 to Goscote. There were 11 deaths at Pelsall and 2 at Goscote. 114 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year as against 135 in the previous year and 22 of other forms as against 26.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The increase in venereal disease recorded in last year's report has been followed in 1946 by a still further increase, particularly in cases of syphilis, which have more than doubled. In 1946, 39 men and 42 women attending for the first time were found to be suffering from syphilis, as compared with 20 men and 17 women in 1945. The figures for gonorrhoea also show an increase, but these are not so marked as those for syphilis. 129 men and 34 women attended with gonorrhoea during the year, compared with 96 men and 35 women in 1945. A total of 546 new cases were seen in 1946 of which 343 were Walsall cases and 203 came from the County of Stafford.

The total number of attendances made during the year was 5,984. This is much the same as in the previous year and this figure of total attendances has remained fairly constant during recent years. Thus, in spite of many more patients, total attendances have not increased in number to any great extent. This is due to the increased efficiency of treatment which has demanded far fewer attendances per case than in past years. The combination of old and well-tried remedies for syphilis with new and up-to-date forms of penicillin has provided the means for dealing effectively and quickly with early cases and hastening cure. Infectivity is now abolished very early in the course of treatment and from the social aspect this is much to be welcomed. Indeed, the efficiency of modern treatment is the only redeeming feature which can be recorded in this otherwise regrettable chapter.

The times of the sessions at the Manor Hospital remain the same, and seem to suit the convenience of patients both from Walsall and from outlying areas. There are three evening sessions per week, two for men (Monday and Thursday at 6.30 p.m.) and one for women (Tuesday, 6 p.m.) one morning session for men (Friday, 10 a.m.) and one afternoon session for women and children (Friday 2 p.m.). Payment of fares to necessitous cases has continued by arrangement with the County of Stafford Health Authority.

Following treatment at the centre, tests of cure must be carried out steadily and patiently for the prescribed period and it is usually found that most patients who have received full treatment realise this and come as requested. The problem of defaulters remains, though it cannot be said that this is not any worse than previously. Contacts have been traced chiefly through the contact-slip system which has continued to function well. The application of the provisions of Regulation 33B has diminished still further and it is expected that this war-time measure will ultimately cease to operate.

The fact that modern treatment renders control of venereal disease so much easier to accomplish in no way detracts from the significance of the increase in the total of new cases. Many of these cases are due to importation of the disease from the continent, wives being innocently infected and, as a rule, attending the clinic at a later stage in the disease than the men. How many infected women fail to attend the clinic, being unaware of their condition, it is impossible to say, but it is felt that only a fraction of the total of venereal disease is being treated at the clinic. The latter effects, both in infected adults and in their children, will be seen in coming years and will provide a heavy burden for the health service of this country.

With the cessation of hostilities and a general relaxation of war-time tension, there has been a sagging of public morals which is reflected in the increase of venereal disease. The vacuum left after the removal of the patriotic incentives of the war years has not been filled and the increase of venereal disease is yet another reminder of the urgent need for our nation, both individuals and collectively, to regain its old respect for health and contempt for low living.

TABLE SHOWING THE WORK OF THE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1946

	Syphilis		Soft Chancres		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of cases on Register 1st January, 1946	70	71	—	—	61	37	17	52	148	160
Number of old cases returned for treatment or observation of same infection	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—
Number of new cases dealt with for the first time	39	42	4	—	129	34	160	138	332	214
Number of new cases transferred from other centres	25	4	—	—	26	4	—	—	51	8
Total cases dealt with	136	117	4	—	217	75	177	190	534	382
Attendances—Medical examinations	1446	1122	19	—	1436	506	554	679	3455	2307
Irrigation, dressings	21	—	10	—	80	—	—	111	111	111
Total attendances	1467	1122	29	—	1516	506	554	790	3566	2418
Patients admitted to hospital	7	15	2	—	1	—	—	2	10	17
“In-patient days”	62	141	37	—	5	—	—	20	104	161
Walsall persons treated at Centres in other towns	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	5
Number of new cases attending during 1946—	56	—	3	—	108	—	176	—	—	343
Walsall	25	—	1	—	55	—	122	—	—	203
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pathological Work—	Microscopical		Cultural for Gonorrhoea		Serum		Cerebro- Spinal Fluid		Others for Diagnosis of Venereal Disease	
Specimens examined at Walsall Clinic										
do an Approved Laboratory	85	1866	9	—	—	—	—	—	57	—

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ended 31st December, 1946

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY
BOROUGH OF WALSALL

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hereby submit my Annual Report for the year 1946, giving particulars of the sanitary administration of the Borough.

The form of the report is similar to the reports for the years 1939 to 1945: it is hoped that a more detailed report may be presented for the year 1947.

In spite of staff difficulties, shortages of labour and materials, every endeavour has been made to maintain the Sanitary Services at as high a level as possible. The position with regard to the maintenance of satisfactory standards of repair and sanitary accommodation to property continues to be difficult.

A heavy burden of work was placed on the department by the licensing procedure on behalf of the Ministry of Works, as indicated by the details set out in the report. A local scheme of urgency certificates, which was established with the co-operation of the trade, also made a lot of work. The scheme was, however, necessary in order to assist builders to obtain materials for urgent works of repair.

The work in connection with the inspection and supervision of food-stuffs, including milk supplies, has continued to be heavy, the volume of foodstuffs examined and condemned as unfit approached the record high figure for 1945.

Much useful work has been done in connection with the Disinfestation Service, including rodent control.

The continued occupation of some 400 houses, officially condemned as unfit prior to 1939, presented a special problem, and negotiations were commenced with the Housing Committee for allocation of houses to meet the pressing needs of these families.

There have been considerable staff changes during the year. Mr. S. Monks, Sanitary Inspector, left the department for a post at Solihull, and Miss Taylor, Senior Female Clerk-typist, left to commence training under the Teachers' Scheme. Two of our juniors returned from the Forces during the year, Eric Smith remained with us for a few months before qualifying as a Sanitary Inspector and taking up a post at Portsmouth, and Bernard Owen after a short period with us commenced training under the special scheme for Sanitary Inspectors. Two Sanitary Inspectors were appointed to positions in September, Mr. E. Bailey and Mr. R. Frankham, who came to the department from Birmingham. Two junior clerks were appointed, Miss J. Heeley, who returned to the department after a short period away, and Mrs. M. Davies.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The total number of visits and inspections made to all premises for the purpose of sanitary inspection was 18,765.

2,677 complaints were investigated, and 308 visits made to infected houses.

Further to action instituted under the Public Health Acts, 557 houses were improved by repairs to the structures, 2,019 houses received attention with respect to water closet and ash-bin accommodation, drainage repairs, and abatement of other nuisances, a total number of 2,576 houses being improved during the year.

MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS

Act under which proceedings were taken.	Nature of Offence	Remarks
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94	Non-abatement of nuisances. Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance— 9-17 Port Street.	Nuisance Order made to abate nuisance within 28 days. 5 guineas costs awarded to Corporation.

EXECUTION OF WORK IN DEFAULT

Towards the end of the year it was found necessary for the Corporation to undertake repairs to houses in default of the owners, where works required by statutory notices served in accordance with the provision of the Public Health Act, 1936, had not been carried out.

A scheme was accordingly organised to meet this situation. A panel of builders willing to undertake this type of work was formed and the scheme came into operation before the end of the year. The total cost of the work involved was £74 2s. 4d.

HOUSING

At the 31st December, 1945, there were 413 houses in respect of which Clearance Orders, Compulsory Purchase Orders, or individual Unfit Demolition Orders were operative, still in occupation. 8 of these houses were closed during the year, the families being accommodated in reconditioned or re-let Council houses. The 8 families were taken from such houses as were in the worst structural condition. There are now 26 houses for which licences to re-let have been granted.

At the 31st December, 1945, there remained 413 unfit houses still in occupation, a proportion of these houses are now controlled by the Council, having been acquired under Compulsory Purchase Orders, and many of them have had urgent works of repair carried out in order to maintain some degree of comfort for the occupiers.

During the year a house was found to be let under most unsatisfactory conditions, and after considering a representation on the matter the Health Committee resolved to make Closing Orders on the seven parts of the building which were let as separate tenements.

Provision of New Houses

During the year a total number of 489 new houses was provided, made up as follows:

Provided by the Council

Temporary bungalows	...	...	...	...	300
Permanent houses	...	...	...	...	81
Conversion of existing properties	...	...	...	...	43

Provided privately

Permanent houses	...	...	...	...	48
Conversion of existing properties	...	...	...	...	17

Total 489

OVERCROWDING

As previously reported, it is impossible to give any reliable figures with regard to the overcrowding position. Overcrowding cases, many of a distressing nature, are constantly being met with, but owing to the shortage of housing accommodation it is not possible to institute satisfactory measures of abatement.

Details of 150 cases of serious overcrowding have been reported to the Housing Department during the year.

MINISTRY OF WORKS—CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING DEFENCE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1939

Building Licences

During the year, 1,167 licences were issued under the above Regulations, covering work at 1,345 premises—956 houses and 389 other premises, the total estimated cost for which was £46,473 4s. 0d.

The work included painting and repairs in respect of premises as set out below :

			Houses	Other premises	Total
Painting	...	...	453	138	591
Repairs	...	...	357	197	554
Painting and repairs	...	...	146	54	200
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	956	389	1,345
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

24 applications were refused.

Building Materials

During the year 447 Certificates of Urgency were issued to builders to assist them to obtain building materials in short supply for work of an urgent nature.

THE INSPECTION OF SHOPS AND OFFICES

It was decided during the year to commence the systematic inspection of shops and offices in the Borough in order to investigate the working conditions of persons employed in such premises. Before doing so, however, it was thought desirable to determine the interpretation to be placed upon the relevant sections of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, since the provisions of those sections are neither very precise nor detailed.

Recommended standards were therefore prepared and these were approved by the Health Committee in November. It was appreciated that these standards must be flexible to a certain extent in order to meet exceptional conditions, but in order to safeguard the health and comfort of workers every effort is to be made to ensure that shops and offices in the Borough comply with these standards.

Standards for Shops and Offices

SHOPS

Ventilation

Shop doors open directly into the open air and apart from the door it is not usual to find much provision for ventilation.

Where possible, two adjustable openings for ventilation shall be provided, one in the front and one at the back of the shop to provide through ventilation.

Temperature

In the case of shops with closed fronts adequate means of maintaining a temperature of 60°F. at all times shall be provided, but in exceptional circumstances a temperature of 55°F. shall be deemed reasonable. Where a shop has an open front it is not practicable to maintain any fixed temperature. In this case, some means of heating shall be provided, either in the shop or, if possible, in a room adjoining the shop where a temperature of 60°F. shall be maintained.

Sanitary Conveniences

The requirements relating to sanitary conveniences in factories contained in section 7, Factories Act, 1937, and the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938, shall be applied to shops with the exception that where both sexes are employed separate accommodation for the sexes shall be encouraged under all circumstances but shall be required only when more than four persons are employed.

No certificate of exemption shall be granted unless it is structurally impossible to provide sanitary conveniences on the premises and suitable alternative arrangements have been made.

Lighting

The provision of adequate natural lighting shall be encouraged with the object of rendering as far as possible the use of artificial lighting unnecessary during the hours of daylight under normal circumstances.

Adequate artificial lighting shall be provided to ensure a proper degree of illumination in all parts of a shop. Artificial lighting shall be of such a design and so placed that the eyes of the workers are not exposed to undue glare.

Washing Facilities

Washing facilities shall consist of a constant supply of hot and cold water, wash-basin with waste pipe discharging in a proper manner to the drainage system, and an adequate supply of clean towels and soap.

No certificate of exemption shall be granted unless it is structurally impossible to provide such washing facilities and suitable alternative arrangements have been made.

Meals Facilities

Where meals are consumed on the premises a room shall be reserved exclusively or mainly for this purpose. This room shall be kept thoroughly clean and shall be equipped with an adequate number of chairs and tables. The provision of simple means of heating water and food shall be encouraged.

Repairs

Every shop shall be maintained in a state of repair and decorative cleanliness sufficient to prevent the premises from becoming in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.

In particular, items of disrepair, such as defective floors, windows, ceilings, etc. likely to cause accidents to employees, shall be dealt with promptly.

*OFFICES***Sanitary Conveniences**

The same requirements shall apply with regard to sanitary conveniences in offices as apply to shops.

Ventilation

Adequate natural ventilation shall be provided except in the case of basement offices where adequate mechanical ventilation shall be provided where necessary.

Natural ventilation shall consist of adjustable windows or ventilators opening directly into the open air and having an area equal to 1/20th of the floor area.

Cleanliness

The decorative cleanliness and the cleanliness of floors, furniture and other contents of offices shall be at a sufficiently high standard to prevent the premises being prejudicial to the health of the employees, or a nuisance.

Overcrowding

An office shall be deemed overcrowded if the number of persons employed in that office is such that the amount of cubic space allowed for every person is less than 400 cubic feet.

In calculating the amount of cubic space, no space more than 14 feet from the floor shall be taken into account.

Nuisances

Section 92 (1) (a) Public Health Act, 1936, shall be interpreted as covering the following matters :

- (1) Lighting.
- (2) Temperature.
- (3) Repairs.

Lighting

The same requirements shall apply with regard to lighting in offices as apply to shops.

Temperature

Adequate means of maintaining a temperature of at least 60°F. at all times shall be provided and a temperature of at least 60°F. shall be maintained.

Repairs

The same requirements shall apply with regard to repairs in offices as apply to shops.

DISINFESTATION

The Disinfestation Service has once again had a very busy year and has accomplished a great deal of valuable work in dealing with both insect and rodent pests.

With the development of the Corporation's housing programme it has been necessary to make a careful check on the household effects of families being rehoused in new houses to ensure that the new houses do not become infested with bed bugs. Where necessary, furniture and household effects were treated with hydrogen cyanide before being taken to new houses.

The methods of disinfestation hitherto employed were reviewed during the year in the light of experience gained with D.D.T. and the use of certain substances discontinued in favour of the newer and more effective compound. Use was also made of benzene hexochloride against cockroaches with good results.

Assistance was given on a number of occasions to neighbouring local authorities wishing to avail themselves of the resources of the Service.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In order to maintain a closer check on the general level of atmospheric pollution throughout the Borough, four additional deposit gauges were installed and came into operation on 1st May. By arrangement with the Public Works Committee, Mr. J. McNicholas, B.Sc., Sewage Works Manager, has undertaken the analysis of deposits in the laboratory at the Bescot Sewage Works.

It is interesting to note from the results so far recorded, that the rate of deposit of soot and other impurities in the centre of the town is roughly twice the rate near the eastern boundry of the Borough.

Equipment for measuring sulphur pollution of the atmosphere was obtained but it was found impossible to bring this into use before the end of the year.

Monthly Record of Deposits

The following deposits were collected :

Deposits—Tons per Square Mile.

Month		Bloxwich	North	Central	South	East
January	.	14.93	—	—	—	—
February	.	9.29	—	—	—	—
March	.	11.28	—	—	—	—
April	. .	19.01	—	—	—	—
May	. .	21.48	24.42	18.68	15.83	12.84
June	. .	16.82	22.65	27.92	18.92	11.80
July	. .	18.08	18.55	25.66	14.94	12.54
August	.	15.39	20.28	28.41	13.34	14.11
September		19.80	25.80	25.08	14.87	11.19
October	.	11.21	14.00	15.78	8.25	7.23
November	.	25.85	22.75	27.59	19.42	13.05
December	.	21.55	23.97	31.60	19.14	16.33

Every opportunity was taken during the year to deal with gross pollution from individual factories, but much remains to be done before there can be a substantial reduction in the general level of pollution. Indeed, there can be little hope of improvement until the present difficult fuel position is alleviated and factories can obtain ample supplies of the correct fuel for their plant.

A course of lectures on Boiler-house Practice, sponsored by the Ministry of Fuel and Power, was held at the Technical College during the winter, and the Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector lectured on the public health aspect of atmospheric pollution

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspection of Meat and other Foods. The inspection and supervision of food continues to take a great deal of the time of the Sanitary Inspectors. Slaughtering has continued at the Government-controlled slaughterhouse in Shortacre Street.

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of carcasses or parts thereof condemned, and is in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

1946

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed and inspected.	4,531	2,741	9,029	26,643	169
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	40	26	31	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2,122	1,828	36	1,493	25
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with all diseases except tuberculosis ...	46.83%	68.15%	.68%	5.72%	14.79%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	11	52	3	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	781	1,183	53	Nil	21
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuberculosis	17.47%	48.70%	.62%	Nil	13.01%

(Total number of carcasses examined 43,112)

Unwholesome Food Condemned. The following table gives details of the nature and weight of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year 1946, the bulk of the foodstuffs being surrendered to the Sanitary Inspectors at the time of inspection.

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat and Offal (at Government controlled slaughterhouse) ...	...	...	...	...	107	16	2	9
Pigs' heads and offals (condemned during inspection of pigs killed by private persons) ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	26
Tinned meats and other foods ...	...	...	...	...	3	0	2	1
Bacon and Ham ...	...	...	...	...	—	1	11	20
Fish ...	...	...	...	...	1	2	—	—
Brawn ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	25
Sausages ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	3	18
Pork ...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	—
Rabbits ...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	14
Eggs ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	9
Butter and Margarine ...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	5
Cheese ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	22
Sugar ...	...	...	...	...	—	10	—	4
Flour ...	...	...	...	...	—	3	2	2
Dried Peas ...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	22
Rolled Oats ...	...	...	...	...	—	10	1	24
Semolina ...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—
Dates ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	2
Raisins ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	2
Prunes ...	...	...	...	...	—	5	3	22
Sultanas ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Peaches ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	2
Pikelets ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	26
Biscuits ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	11
Sweets ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	14
TOTAL ...	...	...	...	...	114	4	3	3

Every effort was made to salvage for purposes other than human consumption the food condemned as unfit, subject to satisfactory safeguards as to the method of disposal.

Certain cases where foodstuffs not in a fit condition for retail sale, and which were in such quantity as to be useful for salvaging for other purposes, were referred to the Ministry of Food Salvage Division.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1936-43 MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-46

The following samples of milk were obtained in the Borough during the year for bacteriological examinations :

Accredited

Local Farms	53
-------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Pasteurised

Local Plants	49
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Outside Plants	34
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

T.T. Pasteurised

Local Plants	16
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Outside Plants	20
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

T.T. Certified

Outside Producer	22
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Sterilised and Heat Treated

Local Plants	45
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Outside Plants	13
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Raw (Undesignated)

Local Farms	65
-------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Outside Farms	1
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

								TOTAL	318
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-------	-----

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-46

Accredited Producers

The number of cowkeepers registered for the production of Accredited milk at the beginning of 1946 was 4, but during the year one additional cowkeeper was granted an Accredited licence.

Careful supervision was exercised throughout the year over all producers, and monthly samples were taken. It is pleasing to report that a high standard of cleanliness was maintained, the results of samples showing a distinct improvement on 1945.

The results of the samples were as follows:

No. of Samples taken	Coliform		Methylene Blue	
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
53	50	3	47	6

Pasteurising Plants

The careful supervision of the three licensed pasteurising plants has again been maintained, but since most of the routine samples were satisfactory it has not been found necessary to carry out any detailed investigations at the dairies. Apart from occasional lapses which have been quickly corrected the bacteriological purity of the pasteurised milk has been very satisfactory.

With the introduction of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1946, the plate count test for pasteurised milk was abolished from 1st March, 1946, and the $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour methylene blue and phosphatase tests became the statutory tests for this milk.

The former test is a measure of the keeping quality of the milk whilst the latter is a check on the adequacy of heat treatment.

No. of Samples taken	Bacterial Count		Coliform		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase	
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
<i>Pasteurised Milk</i>								
49	8	0	41	8	42	7	45	0
<i>Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk</i>								
16	2	0	12	4	13	3	16	0

It will be observed that once again no sample failed the phosphatase test. This fact is important because it indicates that the milk was adequately treated with heat. The importance of the adequate heat treatment of milk was emphasised during the year when a sample of milk delivered to a dairy for pasteurisation was found to contain live tubercle bacilli.

Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk

During the summer months attention was drawn to the unsatisfactory condition of T.T. (Certified) Milk produced and bottled on a farm outside Walsall, but sold by a retailer in Walsall.

Attempts were made to secure an improvement in the purity of the milk but there was no appreciable improvement by the end of the year.

Accordingly, the Health Committee deferred the renewal of the licence to sell the milk in Walsall.

The results of the samples were as follows :

No. of Samples taken	Coliform		Methylene Blue	
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
20	9	11	6	14

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1926-43

The supervision of the production of undesignated milk at farms within the Borough has been well maintained and 66 samples of milk were taken. 31 of these samples reached the bacteriological standard for accredited milk.

Animal Innoculation Tests

Samples of milk from every farm in the Borough have been taken regularly for examination for tubercle bacilli. 67 samples were taken for this purpose and 3 were found to be positive. This information was immediately passed to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in order that the infected cows might be traced.

As a result of the Ministry's investigations, one cow suffering from advanced tuberculosis was detected and slaughtered.

ICE CREAM

During the year a great deal of attention was paid to the manufacture of ice cream. Manufacturers were advised on the precautions to be taken to safeguard the purity of their products, and a list of instructions on the hygiene of manufacture was circulated to each manufacturer.

In order to check the purity of ice cream, 57 samples of ice cream, ingredients, and rinses of utensils were taken during the year for bacteriological examination. Many of these samples revealed an unsatisfactory state of affairs, but as a result of this work, considerable improvements were obtained both in the methods and manufacture, and in the manufacturing premises themselves. It is pleasing to report that every manufacturer was anxious to co-operate with the Department, and to carry out any alterations and improvements suggested to facilitate the hygienic preparation of ice cream.

During the year 14 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Analyst in order to check the quality. It was found that there was a wide variation in the quality of the commodity made by different manufacturers.

One sample contained only a trace of fat, and two others .22% and .66%. Only four samples contained more than 3% fat, but 2 samples contained 10.5% and 9.6% respectively.

The percentage of solids not fat varied from 13.15% to 25.21%.

SAMPLING

Mr. F. E. Thompson, A.R.C.S., F.I.C., submits the following particulars of the samples which have been analysed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act of 1926.

258 samples were submitted for analysis, 65 were formal and 193 were informal. Of these, 3 (equivalent to 1.16%) were adulterated.

90 milks were received of which 2 (equivalent to 2.2%) were adulterated by deficiencies of fat equivalent to 16.6% and 10% respectively.

Investigations with regard to the 2 unsatisfactory milk samples revealed that the milk which was from a herd milked by automatic milking machine was improperly mixed.

1 sample of dried milk was not genuine, due to the presence of .1% dirt.

9 samples were taken under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

CONCLUSION

May I again pay tribute to the continued support of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and to the help and co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health. To my colleagues in the Health Department who have given unstinting service, I tender my sincere thanks.

Yours obediently,

C. A. STANSBURY,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year ended 31st December, 1946

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report on the School Health Service for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

1. STAFF.

There has been one change in the medical staff during the year, Dr. Weigert, who had given excellent service to the School Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Services for a period of over two years, resigning at the end of November. He was succeeded by Dr. J. C. Birchall, who took up his duties on the permanent staff at the beginning of December.

I have again to report a serious shortage of nursing staff. Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Wright, both of whom had given devoted service for many years, retired on superannuation, and Miss Kinsey resigned to take up an appointment elsewhere. The vacancies so created had not been filled at the end of the year.

We were, however, able to carry out all the routine medical inspections and to maintain the work of the minor ailment clinics, but "follow-up" visits to the homes, which are so important, have suffered.

Mr. Parsons, L.D.S., Senior School Dental Officer, decided not to return to the School Health Service on his discharge from the Forces. Mr. Cookson was appointed Senior Dental Officer and Mr. Morgan, who had acted in a temporary capacity for some time, was appointed to the permanent staff.

2. SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION.

(a) Secondary Schools :

County Schools	13
Voluntary Schools ..	2

with accommodation for 5,218 pupils.

(b) Primary Schools :

County Schools	27
Voluntary Schools ..	16

with accommodation for 13,839 pupils.

(c) Nursery Schools 3

with accommodation for 120 pupils.

(d) Open-air School for 50 pupils.

(e) Beacon Residential School for Educationally subnormal pupils—77 pupils.

The number of children on the register at 31st December, 1946, was 15,790 and the average attendance (excluding the Beacon School) was 14,105.

3. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELFARE.

The health of the school child remains good and there is no evidence of malnutrition. Of 5,556 children inspected in the routine age groups none were reported as badly nourished. The physical condition of 730 or 13.1% was excellent, 4,692 or 84.5% was normal, and 134 or 2.4% was slightly subnormal.

During the year 16 children of school age died, the causes of death being : Pneumonia 2, Nephritis 2, Heart Disease 2, Appendicitis 2, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1, other forms of Tuberculosis 2, Accidental 2, Other Causes 3.

4. SCHOOL CLINICS.

The arrangements for the treatment of minor ailments at the School Clinics are as in former years.

468 children were examined for errors of refraction and in 407 cases spectacles were prescribed : 13 children were referred to the Walsall General Hospital for Orthoptic treatment.

5. UNCLEANLINESS.

558 children under the age of fourteen were treated at the Special Clinic in Hatherton Road for Scabies. Of that number 246 were children in attendance at school and 312 were under school age. This is a considerable reduction on the previous year when 372 children of school age and 813 under school age were treated. The number of adults treated for this unpleasant complaint also shows a satisfactory reduction.

The two whole-time nurses appointed for the purpose have carried out 126,741 examinations of pupils in the schools for evidence of uncleanliness. 1,062 individual pupils were found to be unclean. All schools have been visited, but, as in former years most attention has been given to schools with a bad record. It is gratifying to note that some of the schools with a bad record some years ago show a very considerable improvement and now have a very small percentage of habitually dirty children. This improvement must be attributed to the constant vigilance of the nurses. The senior girls once again provide the largest percentage of habitually dirty girls.

6. PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

I am indebted to Mr. Spears, organiser of Physical Training, for the following interesting report:

“In the report for 1945 we expressed the opinion that the end of the war would not bring about any rapid improvement in the conditions for physical training. So far as facilities and equipment are concerned this has been generally true. Although supplies of all types of games material have been, if anything, less plentiful than during the war, the Walsall schools have been fortunate in that their normal suppliers have maintained allocations at least at the level permitted by the Ministry of Education when controls were in force. On the other hand, there has been a steady building up of the standards of performance by the children, partly due to the influx of newly appointed younger men teachers.

“The restricted scope of our activities over the past six years, coupled with disturbed home environment, is bound to have its effect on the mental and physical bearing of the children. The extent of these effects must be a matter of conjecture, but it would appear superficially that lack of opportunities for indulging the natural play instincts may have repercussions on the growing mind and body leading to lack of balance and instability in later life. Every effort is accordingly being made to restore all branches of physical training and recreation to the high levels we boasted in 1939, and if possible to extend considerably the playing-field acreage at our disposal for organised games. We hope that when the various priorities for the re-conversion of the country to peace economy are being sorted out, the health and well-being of the school children will not be overlooked.

“Children, no less than grown-ups, are suffering one of the sequelæ of war—the desire to ease up from effort and seek various forms of entertainment and excitement, not always beneficial. The counter-measures to this tendency hinge on the provision of healthy, vigorous bodily activity, and to this end the schools are playing their part in full. We have recommended school departments to lay greater stress on Part II of the Physical Training tables, which includes the more recreative activities such as vaulting, agility work and games. This entails a reduction of the time usually devoted to the formal exercises, but it is felt that this may well be done without detriment to the child if one takes the view that the desired results will come automatically from the systematic repetition of corrective and developmental exercises throughout school life. This policy is, of course, merely an extension of the principles applied to Nursery and Infant work in physical education to higher age groups, and is certainly in keeping with the child’s own tendencies to achieve self development.

“During the year, we have had in the schools a number of intending teachers awaiting entry into the Emergency Colleges, and also student teachers. Their work in the various departments has been most valuable and has introduced a freshness of interpretation and responsiveness from the children. Head teachers and assistants have co-operated well in affording them every opportunity of gaining experience in physical training.

“There is a tendency to overlook the possibilities of the physical exercise lessons for fostering hygienic habits. Many children are still overclothed for the work. It is most desirable, too, that the facilities for washing, limited though they often are, should be used regularly after the lessons. Handkerchief drill should also precede every lesson.

“We are much indebted to the Baths and Parks Committee for the facilities granted to schools during the year, though we are not yet satisfied that they have enough to offer us. More games fields and swimming baths are needed to cater for the school and leisure-time needs of youngsters. The job of physical education is merely begun during school hours and needs opportunity for further expression in the child’s own cravings for recreational pursuits. Swimming-bath accommodation at present at the disposal of the Education Committee enables some 3,000 boys and girls between 9 and 14 years of age to undergo instruction in swimming each week. This represents less than half the children in the Borough who are eligible and should attend the baths unless medically unfit.

“The standard of swimming teaching is good, and the technique of the swimmers is very satisfactory. One of the difficulties in teaching arises when certain pupils in a class make more rapid progress than others, and it becomes necessary to group the class in sections. Supervision and teaching of the groups needs careful planning and organisation, and will require rather more attention from those responsible for the instruction.

“Life-saving instruction has been carried out with commendable results, though some departments are still unable to make their contribution owing to staffing difficulties. Much of the training has to be done out of school hours, particularly in land drill, and the efforts of all teachers concerned were rewarded by a very small percentage of failures. The greatest weakness in the year’s candidates was on the theoretical tests, and this must receive more attention in the future. Lectures might well be arranged by members of the Medical Officer’s staff or other qualified persons for candidates taking the Bronze Medallion or higher awards.

“The results of the year’s examinations for Swimming Certificates and Royal Life Saving Society awards are given below, with those of 1945 for comparison :

				1945		1946	
				<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
1st Class Certificate	..	..		8	6	5	5
2nd „	..	..		141	90	160	110
Junior Special Award	..	..		—	—	25	22
3rd Class Certificate	..	..		78	64	61	47
Proficiency	..	..	..	188	95	192	104
Junior Learners	..	..	..	95	61	126	54
				<u>510</u>	<u>316</u>	<u>569</u>	<u>342</u>
Total Boys and Girls				1945	826		
„ „ „ „				1946	911		
Life Saving (1946)					<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	
Bronze Medallion	..	..			11	8	
Intermediate Certificate	..				19	23	
Elementary Certificate	..				22	47	
					<u>52</u>	<u>78</u>	= 130
				1945	<u>86</u>	<u>114</u>	= 200

7. PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

We are indebted to Mrs. D. M. Curtis, School Meals Organiser, for the following report on the School Meals Service :

“Since the last report, the steady growth in the demand for school meals has been maintained and the daily average in December had risen to 5,500. This means that all canteens and especially the three Central Kitchens are working up to and even above their capacity and, until further Kitchens are ready, little further expansion will be possible. Many factors have contributed to delay the opening of the new establishments mentioned in last year’s report but two of them are almost complete and should be in operation by Easter. To our great disappointment the new kitchen and dining room at the Open Air School is not yet started but there is reason to hope for its completion before next winter.

“The total number of meals supplied during the year was 955,915 (663,370 for payment, 292,545 free) as against 767,852 (586,526 for payment, 181,326 free) in 1945 and 276,182 in 1942. The granting of family allowances has, however, not resulted in as large an increase in the number of meals for payment as might have been anticipated.

“The charge to the children (covering only the cost of food) remains at 5d. per meal and every effort is made to give both variety and nutritional balance to the meals and to introduce such essential food as raw salads and cheese

“Supervision of meals continues to be the responsibility of the teachers and their enthusiasm and devotion in many schools makes dinner-time a real social function and an integral part of the school day.

“In August 1946, all school children became entitled to $\frac{1}{3}$ pint of milk free on each school day including those absent from school because of illness (it may be collected on their behalf by the parent). Present supplies do not permit of the provision of $\frac{2}{3}$ of a pint, i.e., $\frac{1}{3}$ pint morning and $\frac{1}{3}$ pint afternoon, though this is allowed in the case of special schools such as the Open Air School.

“On 11th October 1946, the number of children partaking of this milk was 14,860 which represents 90.5% of those in attendance on that day.”

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Diphtheria. There were 10 cases of Diphtheria in school children as against 24 in the previous year, the lowest number ever recorded. There were no deaths.

During the year 957 children under the age of 5 years and 1,104 between the ages of 5 and 14, a total of 2,061, were immunised against Diphtheria and 597 received a reinforcing dose.

In addition, 4 children immunised in previous years were found on testing to be Schick-positive, 3 of these receiving further immunising doses. 4,480 children previously immunised were found on testing to be Schick-negative.

Scarlet Fever. 89 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred amongst school children as against 93 in 1945. There were no deaths.

Measles was much less prevalent, only 85 cases amongst school children being notified as against 681 in the previous year. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough. 81 cases of Whooping Cough were notified as against 82 in the previous year.

9. HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

Deaf. 3 children were placed in residential schools for the deaf ; at the end of the year 14 children were in residential schools for the deaf or partially deaf and 3 were in attendance at a special day school.

Blind. 4 blind children were admitted to residential schools for the blind and 1 boy was discharged as no longer certifiable as blind ; at the end of the year 14 children were in residential schools.

Educationally subnormal. There were 12 boys and 2 girls in residential schools for the Educationally subnormal.

Delicate. 1 girl was admitted to a residential open air school.

These handicapped children were in the following institutions :

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Royal School for Deaf Children (Birmingham)	3	4	7
Moseley Road School for the Deaf (Birmingham)	3	—	3
The Mount School for the Deaf (Stoke)	2	5	7
Schools for the Educationally Subnormal :			
Lichfield	12	—	12
Monyhull	—	1	1
Sandhill Park	—	1	1
West Kirby Convalescent Home and Open Air School	—	1	1

Education other than at school was provided for one child suffering from congenital heart disease.

Crippled Children. The total number of school children seen during the year by the Surgeon Specialist at the Orthopædic Clinic was 455. In addition, there were 212 children under school age and 27 tuberculosis cases. 175 children were sent by the Staffordshire County Council and 55 by the Wednesbury Authority. A total of 2085 attendances was made.

266 Walsall children (230 Education and 36 Maternity & Child Welfare) were treated in the Massage Department and, in addition, 62 Staffordshire County and 25 Wednesbury cases were also treated, the total attendances for treatment amounting to 5,543.

A total of 385 children (273 new cases and 112 in attendance at the beginning of the year) were treated at the Ultra Violet Light Clinic. 319 children were discharged from treatment leaving 66 under treatment at the end of the year.

10. DENTAL TREATMENT.

I am indebted to Mr. N. L. Cookson, Senior Dental Surgeon, for the following report on the work of the School Dental Service :

“For the first year since 1939 the dental staff has been at full strength throughout the whole year and a satisfactory year's work has been carried out. Every effort has been made to carry out a programme which we believe will give the best results, viz. the, maintenance of a high rate of inspection, the treatment of casual cases during routine sessions and the careful selection of patients for conservative treatment such as fillings.

“During the year 63% of the school children in the Borough have been inspected. The number of children requiring treatment is somewhat higher than in previous years. This is due, in part, to the number of children who had refused treatment in previous years, but who on reinspection accepted treatment, and also to the fact that we now have a full staff and more filling cases have been charted.

“The acceptance rate of 88% is gratifying and has provided a steady flow of routine work. Parents are becoming more interested in the dental state of their children's mouths. We are grateful to the head teachers for their willing co-operation, not only in arranging for the smooth carrying out of dental inspections but for their interest in seeing that their pupils keep their appointments.

“There has been a great increase in filling work this year and over a thousand more fillings have been inserted during 1946 than were completed in the previous year. In comparing the total number of permanent extractions with the total number of permanent fillings inserted it will be found that for every permanent tooth extracted no less than three permanent fillings have been done. One cannot over-emphasize the importance of this ratio, because a favourable balance on the side of conservatism shows that the school dental service is achieving its main objective, namely the maintenance of a healthy dentition.

“During recent years the extraction total has remained surprisingly constant, and this year again nears the ten thousand mark. This total does appear high, but the main bulk of this work is done for the older children in the junior age groups who are losing their deciduous teeth to give place to the second dentition. At this age the temporary teeth are often carious and if such teeth are retained too long they tend to force the permanent teeth from alignment.

“The forms of treatment, other than fillings and extractions, which are included under the heading of “other operations” include a variety of work upon which the health of the mouth depends. The treatment of Gingivitis, the removal of serumal tartar, interstitial packings, the treatment of gingival hypertrophy by cautery, the administration of Vitamin C and the use of X-rays for the purpose of diagnosis.

“Mainly it is treatment which deals with the health of the gums and it is of the utmost importance that the soft tissues of the mouth should receive adequate care and attention.”

11. EDUCATION ACT 1944.

Schemes for the hospital treatment of school children were submitted to the Ministry of Education, the scheme for the treatment at the Manor Hospital of pupils attending maintained schools being approved on 13th March, 1946.

563 school children were treated at the Manor Hospital as in-patients, 291 of these being Tonsil and/or Adenoid cases.

In addition 630 children made a total of 3,018 attendances as out-patients.

12. INSTRUCTION IN MOTHERCRAFT.

During the year the Superintendent Health Visitor, Miss G. Johnson, and members of the Health Visiting staff, have given courses of lectures on Mothercraft and Hygiene to classes of senior girls at six schools. These lectures have been very successful and have been very well received both by the teaching staffs and the girls themselves.

The course consisted of approximately six lectures, covering such subjects as “Personal Hygiene”, i.e. care of the body, clothing, etc.; “General Hygiene” covering sleep, food, fresh air and exercise, etc., and “Mothercraft” including Ante-Natal care, preparations for the newly born child, the care and feeding of the child.

Additional lectures were then given on the care of the baby at varying periods in its early life, and further talks were given covering the child’s life up to the age of five years. Talks were also given on elementary physiology and anatomy, the hygiene of menstruation, and on food stuffs, diets, etc. During the course the classes were taken

to an infant welfare centre, where practical demonstrations were given in bathing and dressing a baby, preparation of infant food, and opportunity was taken to stress why infant welfare centres are provided and why the young mother should attend. The girls were very interested indeed with this practical demonstration, and many intelligent questions were asked, and the staff were very pleased at the genuine interest shown. At the end of the course examinations were held and fifty-eight certificates of proficiency were awarded.

There is evidently a great need for this type of instruction in the schools and when more staff is available it is hoped to extend the work considerably, the ultimate aim being to ensure that every senior girl receives instruction in mothercraft and personal hygiene before she leaves school.

The girls themselves were given an opportunity at the end of each lecture to ask any questions they wished and full advantage was taken by them in their desire for further knowledge. This proved to be one of the most pleasing features of the course and the lecturers were stimulated by the really keen interest which the girls displayed. We feel these talks have been very successful and shall take every opportunity to extend them.

13. TALKS TO PARENTS.

At the request of various head teachers, the Superintendent Health Visitor gave talks to parents of some of the girls on the maintenance of health in the school child. The attendances were not all that could be desired, but the parents attending were very interested and a large number of questions relating to the health of their children were asked. This is work which we should also like to see extended, but usually it is the good mother who attends such lectures, and not the mother who really needs the instruction. Nevertheless, a beginning has been made and we look forward to an extension of the work when more staff is available.

14. CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Director of Education and his staff for the close co-operation and harmonious working between our Departments, and also to the Head Teachers for their valuable co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES A. M. CLARK,

March, 1947.

School Medical Officer.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS AND TREATMENT RETURNS

Year ended 31st December, 1946.

Table I

Medical Inspections of Pupils Attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools

A. ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

(1) Number of Inspections :					
Entrants	..	..	..	..	1,971
Second Age Group	..	..	..	..	1,582
Third Age Group	..	..	..	..	1,322
				————	Total 4,875
(2) Number of other Routine Inspections					681
					————
				GRAND TOTAL	5,556
					————

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections	6,726
	————

Table II

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE
YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS

Number of pupils inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
5556	730	13.1	4692	84.5	134	2.4	—	—

Table III

GROUP I—Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanliness).

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme	5,274
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

GROUP II—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.

Errors of Refraction (including squint) .. 468

Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding
those recorded in Group I) —

Total 468

No. of pupils for whom spectacles were

(a) Prescribed 407

(b) Obtained 404

GROUP III—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat

Received Operative treatment 315

Received other forms of Treatment .. —

Total number treated .. 315

Table IV

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1)	Number of pupils inspected by the Dentist :					
	(a)	Routine age-groups	..	..	..	9,562
	(b)	Specials	..	..	..	681
	(c)	Total (Routine and Specials)	..	..	—	10,243
(2)	Number found to require treatment					7,368
(3)	Number actually treated					5,722
(4)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment					7,636
(5)	Half-days devoted to :					
	Inspection	..	..	..	..	38
	Treatment	..	..	..	..	1,064
	Total					— 1,102
(6)	Fillings :					
	Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	..	3,325
	Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	..	209
	Total					— 3,534
(7)	Extractions :					
	Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	..	1,126
	Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	..	8,517
	Total					— 9,643
(8)	Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions					.. 3,538
(9)	Other Operations :					
	Permanent Teeth	}	..	..	..	896
	Temporary Teeth					

Table V

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

(i)	Total number of examinations of pupils in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons						.. 126,741
(ii)	Number of <i>individual</i> pupils found unclean					..	1,062

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

138 pupils at Queen Mary's High School for Girls were also medically inspected during the year. 31 of the pupils examined at the routine inspection were found to have some defect.

